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DEAD CREEK

In response to findings of groundwater contamination reported by IEPA, U.S. EPA (Mr. Holoska and Mr. Clark) visited the Dead Creek area on March 2 and 3, 1982. In order to asess the possible impact to human health of pollutants discharged to Dead Creek, private wells were located and sampled in Northern Cahokia which bordered Dead Creek. None of these wells are used for drinking water, but water from them is applied to gardens. Two wells east of Dead Creek and two west were sampled. In addition, three soil samples (composite) were collected from gardens: one east of Dead Creek, the other two west. The well waters will be analyzed for metals, organics, and volatile organics. The garden soils will be tested for tals and organics. The wells and soil sample(s) east of Dead Creek should serve as controls, as groundwater movement is westerly toward the Mississippi (Ron St. John report, IEPA). Individuals were told they will receive a copy of test results and a letter interpreting the results.

Upon interviewing the people who lived in northern Cahokia, bordering fields and Dead Creek in which past hazardous wastes were disposed, we were informed that they knew of no one who had experienced problems of (1) water intrusion into basements, (2) chemical odors in basements, or (3) chemical odors in their well waters. Moreover, a resident of 29 years in northern Cahokia said no wastes were disposed of in trenches near the first row of houses bordering a field. A U.S. EPA flyover of the area revealed possible burial sites, as shown by infrared film. Walking through the fields, gas lines were observed and swells/rolls in the fields. These features correspond to the trench-like features found in the infrared photographs. (The rolls/swells and pipelines would be expected to have a different heat output from the field in general.) This information and discovery was especially releiving, as it means that human exposure to toxics is limited to Dead Creek and primarily by residents who use the groundwater in gardens. Dead Creek is also blocked by a filled-in culvert, at Judith Lane, the first residential street south of Queeny Avenue, making pollutant migration southernly through the residential area minimal.

The 7,000 feet of snow fence placed by IEPA above the Dead Creek (Queeny to Judith Avenue) was observed to have been trampled down in several spots. Children are reported to frequent the creek and ride motorcycles through the bottom. Moreover, only one warning sign is now visible along the entire portion of the creek. Chlorophenolic fumes were evident near Queeny Avenue, and pools of polluted water (oil films) were found in this northern portion of Dead Creek. Moreover, recent chemical dumping was evident 100 feet west of Dead Creek, 100 feet south of Queeny Avenue, and 100 feet south in Dead Creek on the eastern bank.

Two Illinois monitoring wells, #102 (immediately west of Dead Creek at Queeny Avenue) and #101 (350 feet west of Dead Creek), were sampled. Waters will be analyzed for volatile organics, organics, and metals.

Recommendations:

- 1. A chain link fence should be installed by IEPA to prevent access to Dead Creek from Judith Lane to Queeny Avenue.
- Illinois EPA should assess and prevent further dumping in the area.
- 3. Warning signs should be posted by IEPA.
- 4. Dead Creek should be cleaned up from Judith Lane to Queeny Avenue by removing creek sediment and replacing with clean soil. Drainage below Judith Lane to the DuPont Floodway should be improved to prevent water from accumulating. (Culverts need to opened, creek bed sloped, etc.) The numerical rating of the dump site should be re-evaluated to accomplish this end.

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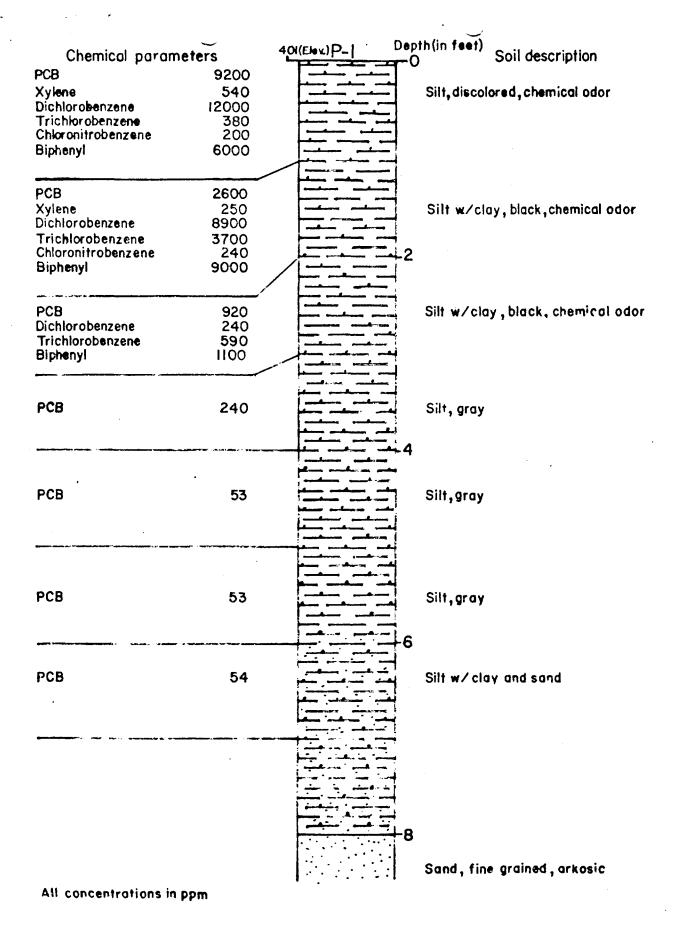


Figure 70. Vertical distribution of organic chemicals in the creek bottom at P-1

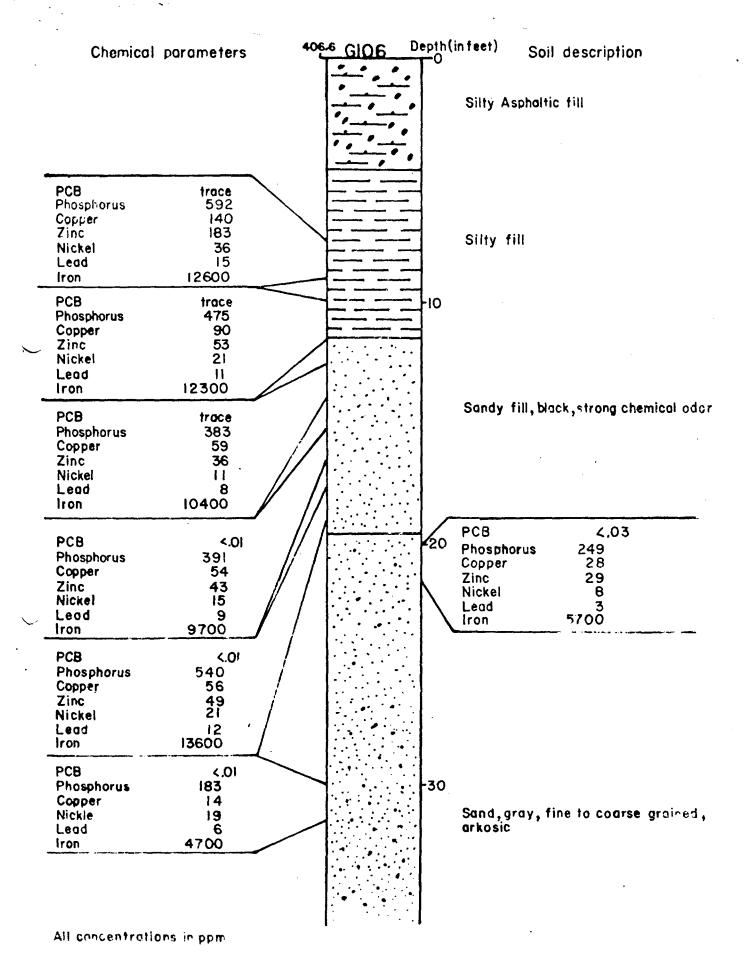


Figure 7c. Vertical distribution of PCB's and metals at 6106